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Borough of Abergavenny



Medical Officer

of

Health's Report

1959



S. M. JAMES, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.



# Annual Report

1959

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Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

As this report marks the end of another decade in the history of Public Health it affords a good opportunity to take stock of the activities of the Public Health Department and restate our aims.

Despite the improvement in environmental conditions, their maintenance remains one of the most important functions of the department. Bad housing with inadequate ventilation, dampness, overcrowding and congested sleeping quarters; insanitary workplaces and offices; diseased, infected and adulterated foods; polluted water supplies; inadequate methods of sewage disposal and overflowing dustbins are some conditions where disease flourishes. Any adverse environmental conditions can be responsible for much preventable illness, hence the need for constant supervision and remedial action where necessary.

As you all know, 1959 was one of the driest years on record, yet, a wholesome supply of water was maintained for both domestic and industrial purposes throughout Abergavenny with but a minimum restriction towards the end of the year. Regular sampling and bacteriological analysis ensures the purity of the supply and the absence of water-borne disease. Regular samples of the swimming bath water are also submitted for analysis. Indeed, supervision of the swimming pool resulted in early detection of a fault in the chlorinating plant and it was decided to temporarily close the baths.

During the year, active measures were taken to construct a proper and adequate means of sewage disposal, the old system having long outworn its efficiency and having become a menace to public health. Overflowing dustbins are prevented by regular collection, and controlled disposal obviates the risk to health from accumulation of exposed refuse and rat infestations.

A crowded house not only offers a wonderful breeding place for disease but the accident risk is much greater and perhaps worst of all, are the frustration and unhappiness which must follow as well as the possible lowering of moral standards. Abergavenny has been, and still is, most active with its housing development programme. Since the war, 702 houses have been built by the Council as well as 50 prefabs and 58 flats. Naturally, being an old town, Abergavenny has had a considerably legacy in the form of slum properties but the problems involved are being tackled realistically. A large proportion of the slum dwellings have already disappeared, and some of the others are in the process of being demolished (namely, Tudor Street Area previously and now, most of the Castle Street Area). The occupiers of all such properties were re-housed prior to demolition.

However, slum clearance is only one aspect of the housing problem. At the end of the year, there were still 294 applicants for Council houses, and new applicants join the tail of the queue almost as fast as those at the head are re-housed. Abergavenny Housing Authority functions as a "points" system and it is the Authority's practice to seek the advice of the M.O.H. in applications for priority in housing on what might be called "health grounds." There may be many reasons for an applicant's claim for priority, the most obvious are the length of time for which he has been waiting, overcrowding, the unsuitability or unfitness of his present accommodation and the presence in his family of illness caused, or aggravated by, housing conditions. Allocation of points is not always easy, those who are ill must be given priority over those who are not yet ill, and yet, it is the duty of the M.O.H. to do all she can to prevent illness. There is only one answer to this particular problem and that is to build still more houses. Then, when at long last the waiting list has been exhausted, we can transfer our energy towards real progress and see that 20th century people have 20th century houses in which to live.

Food is another important factor in the maintenance and promotion of health. It is amazing that many people still expect to suffer each year from what is commonly called a "chill in the stomach." This, they attribute to a variety of causes change in the

weather, alteration in the number and texture of garments worn and change of water, but rarely food, except for the odd occasion when it might be due to "something out of a tin." Although there were no notifications of food poisoning in Abergavenny during the year, one wonders how many cases were missed. Food poisoning is a preventable disease and therefore should be prevented. The various Food and Drugs Acts and Food Hygiene Regulations make a number of provisions which, when effectively applied, will prevent this disease to a large extent. But there are still some problems relating to the protection of food from contamination, for example, we look forward to the day when our slaughter-house is brought up to the required standard. It is also felt that many food handlers do not always appreciate that food hygiene is of prime importance. Even the general public can play its part to a greater extent in demanding a high standard in this respect and itself practising the hygienic code.

Preventive and public health measures coupled with modern therapy have reduced the incidence and mortality of the broad group of infectious diseases. But it would be wrong to conclude from this that the utmost vigilance is no longer required. A knowledge of all infections occurring in the town is of value to the M.O.H. and indeed the more serious diseases, e.g. poliomyelitis, tuberculosis and food poisoning require prompt action by the health department. While infectious diseases in general have become insignificant, other conditions have assumed greater importance and we still have much to learn regarding the epidemiology of coronary disease, gastric ulcer, respiratory disease, road accidents and accidents in the home.

Since infectious and some other diseases have come under control, expectation of life has been greatly increased, so that more and more people reach 65 years plus group. It is estimated that in every 100 people today, 8 are under school age, 16 school children and 14 pensioners, therefore our services for the elderly must come to rival in size and quality, the child welfare and school health services, if health and well-being of age are to be preserved. Already some measures are in operation. Spectacles and hearing aids are provided under the National Health Service. Chiropody service,

although in operation could be extended within the Borough. The "Meals on Wheels" is of great value but the "good neighbourly feeling" could be fostered, because loneliness is a considerable factor associated with age and the cause of mental ill-health in many cases. The useful employment of fit pensioners is another problem which requires more attention. Also, there is still a considerable shortage of suitable housing for this group of the population, since home helps and help from other members of the family, and, where necessary, district nursing (both day and night) enable many to continue to live in their own homes. With assistance, a number of these now requiring admission to County Council establishments for the aged would not require it and so waiting list could be reduced. For those who are ill and in need of in-patient treatment, the cry remains — "More hospital beds please!"

No less important are the infant welfare, school medical and ante-natal services. The infant Welfare Clinic is primarily educational with the M.O. as social physician. Mothers are nearly always ready to increase their knowledge of infant welfare. Many and diverse are the topics introduced and discussed. Prophylaxis plays a considerable part in the work of this clinic as seen by the numbers vaccinated against Small Pox, and immunised against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough. There has also been an enthusiastic acceptance for vaccination against Poliomyelitis and Tuberculin testing has become a routine procedure.

Most expectant mothers regularly attend either a local Authority or the local hospital ante-natal clinic. Attendance at an ante-natal clinic should not result in a physical examination only, but the expectant mother should be educated in the maintenance of optimum mental and physical health throughout pregnancy. She often needs help with housing, financial problems, exercise and nutrition, as well as a host of domestic difficulties. Individual and group discussion often result in the solution of many of these problems as well as an improved standard of health and mothercraft. Health visitors are proving themselves to be invaluable members of a team that strives to expand health teaching not only in the clinic but also at home and in the school.

It is obvious that the physical health of most school-children is better than ever before. But a regular school medical inspection is still most important not only in the maintenance of optimum health but also for the ascertainment and provision of the handicapped. School children, like other members of the community, are not usually seen by the general practitioner until they are aware that something is wrong, and I do feel that these school examinations can and do do a great deal towards providing physical and mental well-being, as well as ensuring the provision of early treatment where necessary.

In this report I have frequently made references to the fact that most people, in one way or another, avail themselves of and profit from the environmental and personal health services provided. Unfortunately, there always seems to be that small group of problem families. These problem families tend to have a multiplicity of problems, chronic in nature, therefore different from the family that finds itself in temporary difficulties through some unforeseen crisis. The problem family is, if not financially embarrassed, always unable to organise its own affairs. Family size is usually above average, the children are always dirty and often inadequately clothed and fed. Their homes are extremely messy with unmade gardens, dirty and broken windows, torn and inadequate curtains, filthy walls and worn paintwork. Chaos reigns everywhere with tables and chairs littered with stale food, dirty and cracked crockery, and accumulations of unwashed clothing. Strange as it may seem, there is usually a wealth of affection within such a family. The cause of this is usually a weak and unstable personality. Earning capacity is low and the small income is unwisely spent. This type of problem is difficult to cure and these families require prolonged supervision and advice. In Abergavenny, some of these families have already been rehoused and supplied with special family help who is most valuable with her training and advice. Financial assistance, as well as any other possible aid, is given where considered necessary. These families, though fortunately few in Abergavenny, demand a great deal of attention from a team of health officials, but, necessity being the mother of invention, it should not be beyond the wit of human improvisation to find the ultimate remedy.

## VITAL STATISTICS

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Area in Acres ...	2398	2398	2398	2398	2398	2398	2398	2398
Population (Est.)	9058	9070	9140	8970	8910	8980	9020	9030
Inhabited Houses (according to Rate Book) ...	2783	2765	2796	2808	2937	2933	2922	3019
Rateable Value	58733	60191	60673	61820	98744	93147	94194	102019
1d. Rate	... 222	230	234	234	235	357	363	388

1959	Total	M.	F.	1959	Borough	County	E.&W.
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### Live Births.

Legitimate	156	77	79	Birthrate per			
Illegitimate	7	3	.4	1,000 of estimated			
	—	—	—	resident			

Total 163 80 83 } population ... 18.05 16.85 16.5

Comparability Factor 1.00      Adjusted Birthrate 18.05 × 1.00 = 18.05

### Still Births.

Legitimate	4	2	2	Rate per 1000 total			
Illegitimate	0	0	0	(Live & Still Births)			
	—	—	—	Births ... 23.95			20.7

Total 4 2 2 Rate 1000 pop. ... 0.44 0.54

### Deaths.

All causes	126	62	64	Death rate per 1000			
				estimated resident			
				population ... 13.95	11.75	11.6	

Comparability Factor 0.97      Adjusted Death rate 13.95 × 0.97 = 13.5

### Deaths from Cancer

All Ages      26 12 14

### Deaths from Lung Cancer

All Ages      2 1 1

Deaths due to Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion      0

Maternity Mortality Rate (Rate per 1000 births)      0      0.52

Infant Mortality.	Cause of Death	Number of deaths.	
		Male	Female
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	0 0
Congenital Malformations	...	...	0 0
Gastro-enteritis	...	...	1 0
Atelactasis	...	...	0 0
Prematurity	...	...	0 0
	Total	...	1 0

Deaths of Children under 1 year of age in Age Groups.

Age Group		Number of Deaths
Under 1 week	...	0
1 - 3 weeks	...	0
1 - 2 months	...	2
3 - 5 months	...	1
6 - 8 months	...	0
9 - 12 months	...	0
		—
Total	...	3

Borough   County   E &W.

Infant Mortality Rate

(Rate per 1,000 Live Births) ... 6.1 27.23 22.0

Year.	Population.	Live Births.	Deaths.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1931	8490 (Estimated)	137	119	16.10	14.01
	8608 (Census)				
1938	7925 (New Borough)	115	108	14.50	13.6
1939	7832 ..	118	144	15.10	18.38
1940	8407 ..	122	149	14.50	17.7
1941	8769 ..	130	135	14.60	15.39
1942	8468 ..	134	113	18.80	13.34
1943	8174 ..	127	122	15.56	14.68
1944	7931 ..	139	104	17.50	13.11
1945	8275 ..	141	120	17.0	14.5
1946	8439 ..	147	110	17.5	13.03
1947	8427 ..	152	115	18.0	13.64
1948	8532 ..	146	138	17.1	16.17
1949	8597 ..	134	94	15.6	10.9
1950	8534 ..	130	145	14.4	16.99
1951	8904 ..	161	157	18.1	17.63
1952	9058 ..	154	108	17.0	11.9
1953	9070 ..	140	93	15.4	10.26
1954	9140 ..	143	100	15.6	10.94
1955	8970 ..	128	106	14.3	11.8
1956	8910 ..	143	124	16.05	13.9
1957	8980 ..	131	112	14.59	12.49
1958	9020 ..	171	139	18.96	15.4
1959	9030 ..	163	126	18.05	13.95

## Causes of Death (1959)

Cause		Male	Female
Unspecified Infectious Diseases	...	0	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	...	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm Lung or Bronchus	...	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus	...	0	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	..	0	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	8	8	
Leukaemia	...	0	0
Diabetes	...	1	2
Vascular Lesions of nervous system	...	5	6
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	6	7
Hypertension with Heart disease	...	1	1
Other Heart Disease	...	14	13
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	4	6
Influenza	...	2	1
Pneumonia	...	4	1
Bronchitis	...	1	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	3	0
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	0	0
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	1	0
Nephritis	...	0	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	4	0
Congenital Malformations	...	0	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	1	10
Accidents	...	1	0
All other Accidents	...	1	0
Suicide	...	1	0
Total	...	62	64

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever		During the year 1 case was notified
Whooping Cough	...	do. 4 cases were notified
Measles	...	do. 0 do.
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis		do. 0 do.
Infantile Paralysis		No cases were notified
Erysipelas	..	do.
Diphtheria	...	do.
Encephalitis	..	do.
Acute Primary Pneumonia		do.
Salmonella Typhimurium	...	do.
Dysentery	...	10 cases were notified.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Notified :	Pulmonary	M.2	F.1	Non-Pulmonary	M.0	F.0
Deaths :	do.	M.0	F.0	do.	M.0	F.0

## Notifiable Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

(Classified according to sex and age groups)

Disease	Sex	Age 0-4	Age 5-9	Age 10-14	Age 15-24	Age 25 plus	Total
Diphtheria	Male	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Female	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	Male	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Female	...	...	1	...	...	1
Meningocoecal Infection	Male	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Female	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	Male	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Female	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	Male	...	2	...	...	...	2
	Female	...	2	...	...	...	2
Enteric Fever	Male	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Female	...	...	...	...	...	...
Infantile Paralysis	Male	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Female	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	Male	...	2	2	...	...	5
	Female	...	1	2	...	1	5
Erysipelas	Male	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Female	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis	Male	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Female	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Primary Pneumonia	Male	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Female	...	...	...	...	...	...
Salmonella Typhimurium	Male	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Female	...	...	...	...	...	...

## Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1959.

Age	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 - 4 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 - 9 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 - 14 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 - 19 years	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20 - 29 years		1	...	...	...	...	...	...
30 - 39 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
40 - 49 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
50 - 59 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
60 and over	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...

## Vaccinations against Small Pox

Numbers Vaccinated.

Age Groups	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Under 1 year	19	36	15	35	57	64	71	81
1 - 4 years	8	19	4	31	37	22	16	22
5 - 14 years	—	2	3	9	4	9	12	12
15 years plus	12	24	9	1	25	28	17	9
Totals	39	81	31	76	123	123	116	124

## Immunisations against Diphtheria & Whooping Cough

Numbers Immunised.

Age Groups	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Under 5 years	44	93	64	81	141	109	118 Diph. 115 WhC	135 Diph. 105 WhC
5 - 14 years	6	25	26	307	109	6	210 Diph. 3 WhC	14 Diph. 1 WhC
Totals	50	118	90	388	250	115	446	149 Diph. 106 WhC

Yours faithfully,

S. M. JAMES, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.

## WATER SUPPLY.

The Town's supply is derived from the Lodge and Llwyndu Springs situated in the Llwyndu Mountains at the foot of the Sugar Loaf Peak. During the year as much as 730,000 gallons was produced in one day. This far exceeds the average consumption of some 500,000 gallons per day.

A further guarantee of adequacy is provided by an artesian well or "borehole" which during the year delivered as much as 60,000 gallons in one day. Normally this supply is not required but the vertical electric pump is periodically "turned over" to maintain mechanical efficiency. In times of emergency water can also be turned from the Cybi stream into the covered reservoir which has a holding capacity of 7 million gallons.

Further, by agreement with the Newport Corporation a reserve supply is assured from their trunk main which passes near the outskirts of the Town and to which the Council's water supply system is connected.

In common with almost every water undertaking in the County, the Council's resources were strained to the limit during the year as a result of the prolonged drought. As will be seen from the table at the end of this report, this was due to the very light rainfall during the months of May to October inclusive. However, by eventually bringing into use all the available sources of water it was possible to maintain unrestricted supply until September 1st, when an economy notice was issued prohibiting the use of water for watering gardens, washing cars, etc. This was maintained until it was found necessary to turn off the supplies to one third of the Town during the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.. from 7th October to 10th November when this restriction was extended to the whole of the Town until 19th November.

The heavy rainfall during November and the beginning of December enabled the Borough Engineer to recommend that all restrictions could be withdrawn on December 4th.

By all these means sufficient water was provided to maintain a consumption which did not reduce below 460,000 gallons per day.

With one exception the bacteriological standard of the water was maintained satisfactorily. Careful watch during the period of intermittent supply did reveal a slight pocket in a "dead end" which lasted for very short duration and was cleared up by a series of flushing operations.

A total of 13,859,000 gallons was taken from the Newport Corporation's supply between the 7th August and November 20th, roughly one third of the total consumption for that period.

Altogether 11 samples were taken for bacteriological examination and one for chemical analysis.

Four samples of private supplies proved to be slightly contaminated and the consumers were advised as to remedial measures to be taken.

### Swimming Bath Water.

By routine daily checks with the chloroscope and check samples having been taken for bacteriological examination, the quality of the water was maintained at a satisfactory level.

The ideal weather during the Summer meant that the number of swimmers greatly exceeded that of previous years. This caused the filter and chlorinating plant to be used to full capacity during the season. Whether it was for this reason or through a normal mechanical fault the machinery broke down near the end of the season and it was found necessary to close the baths for three weeks while the plant was refitted. It was considered that it would be better to do this than to rely on any alternative manual method of treatment in view of the kind of weather prevailing and the number of persons using the bath.

The conditions also favoured the training of young swimmers and the Education Authority issued nearly 600 Certificates of Proficiency during the season.

During the year the Public Health Committee repeatedly considered the possibility of providing facilities for the younger children on the land adjoining the site of the Swimming Pool and it is hoped that early in the next year positive action can be taken to bring this about.

## SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During April of this year work was commenced on the construction of the new Sewage Disposal Works.

This project, which will ultimately cost some £146,000 will replace the existing obsolete open lagoon system of disposal of the Town's sewage.

The existing treatment which for some years has caused the Council anxiety consists of a manually cleansing screening chamber and eight under-drained lagoons fed at will from a concrete distribution channel, thence to the River Usk by an 18 inch diameter effluent pipe.

This method was probably effective when it was constructed in 1883 and the 10 acres of land available sufficient for dealing with the sewage of the town at that period. In 1916 and in 1950, sewage was taken into the works from Penyval Hospital and Llanfoist village respectively. By 1951 the population of these two areas added to that of the Borough which had risen from 6,941 to 8,844, was approximately 11,000 an increase of 4,000 since the construction of the works took place.

The net results have been that the sludge lagoons were rarely rested and cleaned, and had deteriorated to such an extent that major work would be required to put them into a reasonable condition.

Having taken expert advice on the matter and there being no practical alternative to the problem, the Council decided to embark on the costly plan to provide an up-to-date adequate means for the disposal of all the sewage they are permitted to deal with.

As has been stated, work commenced in April on the

construction of an Activated Sludge Plant, this being considered to be the best method to adopt under the particular conditions which apply in this area. The favourable weather during the year allowed the work to be carried forward most expeditiously, and the Council have been well satisfied with the reports of their Engineer in charge as to the speed and quality of the work carried out. By the end of the year work to the value of £49,000 had been carried out, including of course, most of the work of excavation and laying out.

It is anticipated that the works will be completed well within the contract period which expires on 31st March, 1961.

## HOUSING.

During the year the Council were able to continue the building of houses and a scheme for the erection of 36 houses was commenced. By the end of the year 34 dwellings had been completed. This number brings the total of houses built post-war to 702, 50 prefabs, 58 flats and 7 bungalows. 9 other dwellings were completed by private enterprise.

Applications received far exceeded the rate of housing and the number of applicants rose to 294 by the end of the year. This was partly due to the fact that 10 families from the Castle Ward No. 1 Slum Clearance Area were re-housed.

In Housing Management one feature was considered which could contribute to a lowering of the standard of the Estate. It is the Council's policy to interfere as little as possible with the lives of their tenants, consistent with the recommendations of the Ministry, and tenants are allowed to indulge in hobbies that are frowned upon by many Authorities. Among them is the keeping of fowls and pigeons. The sole requirements is that the numbers kept should be limited and that they should be housed in suitable buildings, such that one man's hobby does not encroach upon another's liberty.

Unfortunately in too many instances these requirements have been ignored to the annoyance of the adjoining neighbours and detriment of the standard of the Estate generally.

During the year a survey was made to discover the extent of the problem and the Council resolved to insist on uniformity of buildings and the number of birds kept. Advice was taken from Poultry Farmers and the Homing Union of Pigeon Fanciers. Plans and specifications were produced in conjunction with the Borough Engineer's Department and in September each tenant concerned received a copy with a letter informing them that the necessary building should be provided by May 1st, 1960, otherwise the keeping of hens or pigeons would not be allowed.

### Slum Clearance.

In view of the fact that the re-housing of the families in the Castle Ward No. 2 Area had now been completed the Council considered the representations of the Medical Officer of Health and resolved that the remainder of the original Castle Ward Area, that is Castle Ward (No. 3) Area should be declared a Slum Clearance Area.

The interposition of premises other than dwellings in this area which could not be dealt with under Slum Clearance Procedure meant that this area had to be represented as being four small areas.

Altogether the composite area contains 20 dwellings out of which 15 families will require to be re-housed, a total of 41 persons.

When this area has been dealt with it will mean that two thirds of the Council's five year plan for Slum Clearance will have been completed. It is anticipated that the clearance of this area will be completed early in 1961.

Demolition work in the other two areas has been progressing steadily in spite of the difficulties caused by some unavoidable delay in re-housing and the providing of support to adjoining properties, the position at December was that with one exception all the properties in Nos. 1 and 2 areas of the Castle Ward were demolished or were in the process of being demolished.

## Housing Statistics.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.		
(a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for Housing Defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)		53
(b) Number of Inspections made for that purpose		149
2. (a) Number of Dwellings (included under Sub-heading (1) above which are inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925		34
(b) Inspections made for that purpose		42
(c) Number of Dwellings found to be in a stage so dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation ( <i>see Slum Clearance</i> )		—
(d) Number of Dwellings (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation		26
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of Informal Notice action by the Local Authority or their officers		20

### Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1957.		
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs		1
2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—		
(a) By Owners	...	1
(b) By local Authority in default of Owner	...	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.		
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied		5
2. Number of dwellings in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—		
(a) By Owners	..	3
(b) By local Authority in default of Owner	..	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957.		
1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1	
2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit	..	Nil
(d) Proceedings under Section 17 & 23 of the Housing Act, 1957.		
1. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil	
2. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil	
(b) Undertaking accepted that the house will not be used for human habitation	..	1
(e) Closing Order is made under Section 17 (1)	..	Nil

### Rents Act, 1957.

Of proceedings taken in 1959, one Certificate of Disrepair was cancelled during the year and undertakings given were completed in two cases.

Six applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received, one being withdrawn. Of the five remaining applications one Certificate was granted, undertakings were accepted in two cases, (one of which was completed during the year), and two are awaiting further action.

### Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Routine visits were made to food premises throughout the year. In no instances was it found necessary to recommend Statutory Action in the way of any contravention. On each visit the Inspectors were received with courtesy and both Managers and Owners were most co-operative in carrying out the requirements of the Regulations.

In some instances large scale reconstruction work was carried out, two shops being converted to modern self-service stores. One grocer shop which was in a very bad condition was closed and the building partially demolished.

Inspections continued to be carried out in the markets while business is being carried on and here again the co-operation of the traders is most appreciated.

### Foodstuffs Condemned, 1959.

#### Canned Foods.

Meat	...	191 tins	Fruits	...	228 tins
Fish	...	31 tins	Milk	...	9 tins
Vegetables	...	160 tins	Cream	...	10 tins
Soups	...	10 tins			

#### Miscellaneous Foodstuffs.

Jam	...	29 jars	Rusks	...	7 pkts.
Marmalade	..	2 jars	Coffee	..	15 tins
Sauce	...	1 bot.	Potato Salad	..	1 tin
Prunes	...	24 lbs.			

#### Meat from Outside Sources Condemned at Retailers Premises.

Beef	..	34 lbs.	Bacon	..	36 lbs.
Pork	...	92 lbs.	2 Lobsters.		
Sausage	..	44 lbs.	2 Pigs Livers.		
Turkeys	...	2.42 lbs.			

Condemned foodstuffs are collected by Council employees. Cans are punctured and taken to the refuse tip, where they are buried. Other foodstuffs, with the exception of meats, are, if practicable, used for animal feeding. Meat condemned is taken to the Public Slaughterhouse, suitably dyed, and then collected by a recognised firm for manufacture into animal feeding products and other non-edible bye-products.

### Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954

There are three producer-retailers resident in the Borough and licenced by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Licences granted by the Borough Council are eight authorising the sale of "Tuberculin Tested" (Raw) Milk, six authorising the use of the designation "Pasteurised" and one for the designation "Sterilized."

## **Sampling.**

During the year 26 samples were submitted for examination. 16 samples were of Tuberculin Test (Raw) Milk, and 10 of Pasteurised.

The Public Health Laboratory reported 3 samples of Tuberculin Tested (Raw) Milk and 1 sample of Pasteurised to be below standard. Consequently, appropriate action was taken with the Producers and Distributors, in an attempt to eliminate causes for unsatisfactory results.

The Tuberculin Tested Milks were also subjected to animal inoculation tests which yielded negative results to Tuberculosis.

There is one Pasteurising and Bottling Establishment in the Borough, viz., F. Franklyn, Usk Vale Dairy. These premises, are, of course, under the supervision of the County Council.

No Milk Diseases were reported during the year, and the co-operation of the retailers in respect of matters drawn to their attention was such that no legal action was necessary.

## **Ice-Cream.**

Of the 30 premises registered with this Authority under the Food and Drugs Act, 1958, only 2 are used for the manufacture of Ice-Cream.

One uses the Heat Treatment, the other adopting the cold mix method.

All the manufacturers comply with the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

In the case of the other retailers, the practise is to purchase wrapped ice-cream from outside firms who mass-produce the product and who provide refrigerated conservers for the use of retailers.

3 samples of ice-cream were taken during the year and submitted for Bacteriological Examination and as a result of such examinations one sample was grade 1, whilst 2 samples were in category grade 4.

**Rodent Control.**  
**Prevention of Damage by Pests Acts 1949.**

The work of rodent control has continued to be carried out in a satisfactory manner and details are given below.

*Destruction of Rats in Sewers.*

First Annual Maintenance Treatment, 25th May to 8th June, 1959.		
Total number of manholes in foul and connected system	...	286
Number baited	...	143
Number showing takes of bait	...	20

*Second Annual Treatment, 9th November to 25th December, 1959*

Total number of manholes in foul and connected systems		
Total baited	...	140
Number showing takes of bait	...	22

The method adopted was the placing of bait on the 'benching' in manholes or on trays fitted into the brickwork and provided with thick ropes to allow rodents to climb on the trays, the poisoned bait being deposited wherever a pre-bait take had been recorded. The results were satisfactory and a lessening of surface infestation is noted after each treatment.

These routine treatments were followed by treatments at the Sewage Disposal Works and Refuse Tips, such treatments being in addition to those regularly carried out.

I am pleased to report that rat infestation in the town has been reduced to almost a negligible number, but in order to keep this so, the work must be continued with enthusiasm and all areas kept under constant surveillance.

**Surface Infestations.**

Routine surveys are being maintained and all complaints are immediately investigated.

The following is a summary of the work carried out :

Total number of properties in this area—Dwelling houses	2969
All other (including business premises)	... 657

*Inspections —*

Number of Local Authority properties inspected	...	8
Number of business properties inspected	...	103
Number of private dwellings inspected	...	198
Number of agricultural properties inspected	...	2
Total inspections including re-inspections	...	631
Total number found to be infested :		
By Rats	...	45
By Mice	...	27
Total number of treatments carried out by Rodent Operator	...	72
Number of re-treatments	...	4

**Factories Act, 1937 and 1957.**

The following represents the distribution of trades in the Borough :

	Number of Factories	Mechanical Power used	With Power not used
Agricultural Machinery Repairs	2	2	0
Bakehouses	5	5	0
Bacon Curing	1	1	0
Blacksmith	2	1	1
Boot and Shoe Repairs	5	5	0
Cellulose Spraying	8	8	0
Cement Products	2	2	0
Egg Grading	3	3	0
Electrical Repairs (including radio)	7	1	6
Firewood	2	2	0
Florist (Wreaths)	3	0	3
Gas Undertaking	1	1	0
Ice-cream	2	2	0
Ironworker and Engineers	2	2	0
Leather Products	1	1	1
Meat Small Goods	9	9	0
Milk Pasteurisation and Boiling	1	1	1
Mineral Water	1	1	0
Monumental Masonry	2	2	0
Motor Repairs	9	8	1
Printing	2	2	0
Soft Toy Manufacturing	1	1	0
Sugar Confectionery	2	2	0
Tailoring and Dressmaking	2	0	2
Upholstery and French Polishing	1	1	0
Welding (Acetylene and Electric)	2	2	0
Wool Staplers	2	0	2

## OUTWORKERS.

Fours outworkers are listed and are all concerned with the altering and repairing of wearing apparel.

51 Inspections were carried out, and the following is a statement of cases from which defects were found.

### Number of Cases in which defects were found

Particulars.	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Inspected	Prosecutions Instituted
Want of Cleanliness ...	0	2	0	2	0
Overcrowding ...	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable Temperature ...	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate Ventilation ...	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective Floor and Drainage ...	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences -					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	0	0	1	0
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ...	2	2	0	2	0
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	0	0	0	0	0
Escape in case of fire--					
(a) No certificate	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Inadequate ...	2	2	0	0	0

Factories to which Section 34 applies have been inspected and issued with certificates as to means of escape in case of fire. In two instances 'means of escape' are satisfactory but the necessary Certificates have to be issued.

## Meat Inspections.

All the carcases produced at the Slaughterhouse during the year were subjected to inspection.

As will be seen from the table following, the carcases and offal showed a remarkable freedom from disease. Being situated in an agricultural area, the figure for the condemnation of 3 carcase of

cows out of 116 such animals slaughtered is remarkably low and in these cases were for generalised emaciation due to chronic conditions associated with old age. The incidence of disease in sheep is negligible but, in such an area, casualty sheep are frequently brought in, some of them being affected with advanced pregnancy toxæmia or injury.

The apparently high number of "parts of Carcasses" affected with non-tubercular disease can be explained by the fact that these figures contain even part livers condemned for excessive distomatosis or cystic conditions. At the same time it appears that large numbers of livers are affected in this way and in an advanced stage to the detriment of the quality of the associated carcase.

At the moment meat inspection is being carried out under extreme difficulties with poor lighting, lack of office accommodation and facilities for hand-washing and sterilization.

However, I am pleased to be able to report that this is partly due to the fact that in October work was commenced on the long awaited scheme for reconstruction. This scheme, in the sum of some £14,000 embraces all the requirements of the Slaughterhouse Acts and Regulations, and, although limited in its scope by reason of it being the internal reconstruction of existing buildings, it is envisaged that it will provide first class facilities, not only for the production of carcases for the firm now leasing the Slaughterhouse, but also for any person who wishes to have his animals slaughtered. A clause in the Council's agreement with the lessees allows the 'Public Abattoir' facilities of pre-control days to be retained for the benefit of those butchers who prefer to purchase their own animals.

#### Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954.

Seven persons have been granted licences under the above mentioned Acts authorising them to slaughter or stun animals.

**Carcasses and Offal Inspected and Condemned in whole or  
in part.**

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	C'lv's	Sheep and L'mbs	Pigs	H'rses
Number killed (if known)	908	116	99	7078	2714	—
Number inspected	908	116	99	7078	2714	—
<b>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci —</b>						
Whole carcases condemned	1	3	13	31	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	275	88	11	346	62	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. and Cysticerci	30.4	78.1	14.1	5.3	2.3	—
<b>Tuberculosis only—</b>						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	1	—	—	91	—
Percentage of the number inspected infected with Tuberculosis	0.1	0.8	—	—	3.4	—
<b>Cysticercus—</b>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Weight of meat and offal condemned as a result of Tubercular infection.

Carcase meat	...	1660 lbs.
Offal	...	374 lbs.

Weight of meat and offal condemned as a result of disease and conditions other than Tuberculosis.

Carcase meat	...	4532 lbs.
Offal	...	6065 lbs.

Total weight of meat and offal condemned ... 12631 lbs.

### Rainfall, 1959

Rain Gauge ... { Diameter of Funnel, 5 inches.  
Height of Top { Above Ground 1 foot  
{ Above Sea Level 215 feet.  
Situation : Bailey Park.

Month			Total Depth inches
January	...	...	6.25
February	...	...	0.5
March	...	...	4.5
April	...	...	4.25
May	...	...	2.75
June	...	...	2.5
July	...	...	2.5
August	...	...	1.25
September	...	...	0.04
October	...	...	3.5
November	...	...	7.5
December	...	...	11.5
	TOTAL	...	47.04

I am Sir and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,  
ROGER J. HOWELLS,  
Public Health Inspector.









